

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2011

The Honorable Ray H. LaHood
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

We are pleased to convey our strong support for a grant application submitted by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) requesting funding from the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Program.

Metro is requesting \$125 million from the TIGER program for the Crenshaw/Los Angeles International (LAX) Airport Transit Corridor Project. This project would greatly improve the access and mobility to public transportation for the people of Los Angeles and stimulate economic growth throughout the Crenshaw/LAX transit corridor.

Los Angeles County is consistently ranked as the most congested traffic area in the United States with transportation time and costs continuing to climb. In order to combat these costs and ensure that Los Angeles infrastructure is able to handle the area's transportation, mobility and accessibility needs and offer improved travel times, reliable transit service and access to the regional transit system, critical infrastructure and transit investments, like the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor Project, are necessary.

The Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor Project will provide essential congestion relief and connect LAX, the Metro Green Line, the Exposition Line and the countywide bus network and will improve transit connections to the entire Metro Rail and Bus system. It will also provide crucial assistance for the congested 405 and 110 Interstates.

More specifically, the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor Project consists of the construction of an 8.5 mile light rail transit line between the Exposition Line and the Metro Green Line, including at least six stations and up to two additional stations, a maintenance facility, and procurement of rail vehicles. It will provide critical connections in Los Angeles County's growing transportation network. The project provides a critical north-south link connecting the South Bay and the LAX Airport area with the Exposition Line, which will open within the next few months and will provide connections to downtown Los Angeles and the Westside of Los Angeles (and ultimately to the City of Santa Monica).

Additionally, the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor Project will provide jobs and community revitalization opportunities in a historically underserved portion of Los Angeles County, and is expected to be a significant engine for economic development generating an estimated 7,800 jobs during its five-year construction period.

The Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor Project is largely funded by Measure R, Los Angeles County's third half-cent sales tax for transportation. It is also anticipated to be financed by a \$546 million TIFIA loan supported by \$20 million in TIGER II funds to pay for the loan's subsidy and administrative costs. As the majority of our project is funded by local sources, namely our Measure R sales tax, this application supports the option to implement two additional important features: An additional below-grade station at Crenshaw Boulevard/Vernon Avenue and an extension of a below-grade alignment between 39th Street and the Exposition Line. The additional station at Vernon Avenue will serve historic Leimert Park Village, a neighborhood which serves as the central arts and cultural hub of Los Angeles County's African American community. The additional below-grade segment supports efficient operations at the connection with the Exposition Line and supports economic development near the major intersection of two light rail lines.

Improving mobility and ensuring an accessible, integrated, and efficient transportation system is a priority we all share. The Crenshaw/LAX line will greatly improve the quality of life for residents of Los Angeles County. Therefore, we urge the Federal Transit Authority to grant Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority's TIGER Discretionary Grant application to provide funding for the expansion of the Crenshaw/LAX Light Rail Line.

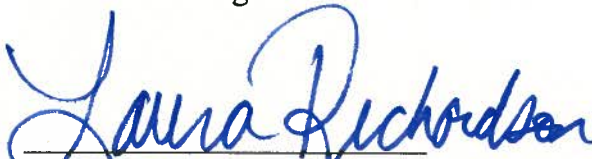
Sincerely,



KAREN BASS
Member of Congress



MAXINE WATERS
Member of Congress



LAURA RICHARDSON
Member of Congress



JANICE HAHN
Member of Congress

CC: Peter M. Rogoff, Administrator, Federal Transit Administration
Art Leahy, CEO, Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority